

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

38. (Currently Amended) A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:

a plurality of individual detached modules assembled together to form the harness ~~including a~~ by zip couplings having a first member for selectively engaging a second member.

39. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein one of the modules is more compliant than another of the modules.

40. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein at least two adjacent modules are selectively releaseable from one another.

41. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 40, wherein at least two adjacent modules are connected to each other.

42. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the first member is configured to engage the second member in vivo.

43. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein at least one pair of adjacent modules are permanently affixed to one another.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The cardiac harness of claim 38,~~ A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:

a plurality of individual modules assembled together to form the harness including a zip coupling having a first member for selectively engaging a second member, wherein at least one of the modules comprises a spring hinge.

45. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the modules are configured for minimally invasive delivery.

46. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the modules are configured for in vivo assembly.

47. (Currently Amended) A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:

a first module which extends along a first portion of a circumference of the harness; and

a second module which extends along a second portion of the circumference of the harness;

wherein the first and second modules are completely detached from one another until connected ~~to one another together~~ by a zip coupling having a first member for selectively engaging a second member.

48. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first and second modules are connected to one another by the zip coupling being interposed between the modules.

49. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first module is more compliant than the second module.

50. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first module and the second module are configured for minimally invasive delivery.

51. (Currently Amended) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first module and the second module are configured for in vivo assembly.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of making a cardiac harness, comprising:
providing a plurality of detached modules; and
connecting the detached modules to one another to form the harness by use of a zip coupling having a first member engage a second member.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the zip coupling is disposed between each module.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the modules are assembled in vivo.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the modules are delivered to the heart by minimally invasive access prior to assembly in vivo.

56. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a diseased heart, comprising:
providing a cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart and comprising a first end and a second end, the first end and the second end being adapted to be coupled to one another;

rolling at least a portion of the cardiac harness about an axis;

placing the rolled cardiac harness adjacent a portion of the patient's heart;

unrolling the harness so that the unrolled harness fits about the heart; and

coupling the first end and the second end using a zip coupling.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the zip coupling includes a first member for selectively engaging with a second member.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the cardiac harness is configured for minimally invasive delivery.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the first member slides relative to the second member in locking engagement.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the first member snaps into locking engagement with the second member.

61. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

62. (Previously Presented) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.